

AETC commander talks about challenges, issues



Gen. Hal M. Hornburg, Air Education and Training Command commander, discusses the status of aircraft on the flightline with Senior Airman Kimberly L. Simon, 325th Operations Support Squadron airfield management journeyman, before departing Tyndall Wednesday. Hornburg was here for his orientation site visit, seeing first-hand the people and facilities of the base that trains the best air superiority team for the Air Force.

Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb
*325th Fighter Wing
 public affairs*

Air Education and Training Command faces many challenges in the future — the challenges of recruiting, training and retaining quality people for the Air Force while ensuring air superiority for America by bedding down the F-22 Raptor aircraft — but they are challenges the command is up to, said Gen. Hal M. Hornburg during an interview here Wednesday.

Recruiting and retaining quality Air Force members is an important task for AETC, and one that the command is working hard on, according to Hornburg. “The challenges we have in the next few years will mirror the ones that we have now,” he said. “We have to be concerned about retention and recruiting.

“We have to make sure that our special undergraduate pilot training and navigator training are done properly,” Hornburg said. “We have to make sure that we smooth out the ripples in the stream of our 134,000 tech. trainees a year to make sure the BMT (basic military training) training melds nicely with pipeline tech. training. Then we continue to produce the best mission-ready airmen that we can, regardless of whether they are fliers or supporters.

“Those are some of the challenges we have today and I see very little evidence that those challenges will not be the ones that are

facing us in the five years to come.”

Speaking of ways the Air Force is addressing recruiting, the ‘We Are All Recruiters’ program is boosting the recruitment effort, but the program can be even more for the Air Force, Hornburg said. “The WEAR program is helping because we are giving our recruiters more leads,” Hornburg said. “But I kind of like to turn the WEAR program around and say ‘We Are All Retainers.’ We need to work on retention just as hard, if not harder, than we are working on recruiting,” he continued. “If we do that properly, we’ll give our recruiters less to do because they’ll have less requirements to recruit the big numbers they have to recruit right now.”

Retention is a vital issue for the Air Force and an important one for everyone to concentrate on, Hornburg said. “What we need to be doing is working retention on the folks that are leaving us the most, which are our mid-grade, our five-levels,” he said. “This is where we need to put most of our attention. We need to take a look at restructuring re-enlistment and recruiting bonuses. We need to do more leading, mentoring and coaching.”

Even though the mid-grade Air Force members are being targeted right now, there is also a good message for people new to the Air Force, said Hornburg. “What I would tell young people in terms of retention is,

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CSAF calls Air Force people a priority

Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON— “‘People First’ is not just a slogan — it’s a priority of action,” the Air Force’s top military leader told the 2000 Air Force Association Convention recently.

“Earlier this year, we published our vision (Global Vigilance, Reach and Power) for America’s Air Force and declared, up-front, that our people are the foundation of our force,” said Gen.

Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff. “Over the past several years we have worked hard to improve the quality of life our people deserve.”

Quality-of-life initiatives are important because the Air Force is a retention service, he said. “We need experienced (men and women) to not only be prepared to deploy — but they must also deal with an increasingly aging force of aircraft that are tough to deploy and maintain.”

Recapping recent quality-of-life ini-

tiatives such as health care, housing and privatization efforts, Ryan said the Air Force is continuing to examine pharmacy benefits and working on TRICARE improvements for active-duty members, their families and retirees.

“Our military family housing is so important to the security of our military families,” he said. “It is a haven for families separated for deployments — and we must continue our priority efforts to revitalize it through new construction and privatization where that

makes sense.”

One initiative the Air Force has implemented over the past year to help reduce this type of deployment hardship is the Aerospace Expeditionary Force schedule, according to Ryan.

“Our AEF schedule puts predictability into people’s deployments,” he said.

The time spent on deployments away from family, educational facilities and, in the case of Guard and Reserve members, their jobs, is tough but necessary, Ryan added.

“It’s part of our duty,” he said. “But to make it (deployments) predictable allows our people to plan their lives. We have done that with AEF. It’s a success.

“When we began (the AEF cycle), most of our expeditionary operations overseas were filled by individuals,” the chief of staff said.

In AEFs 9 and 10, which are currently deployed, almost 95 percent of

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the people were deployed as teams which trained together and had confidence in their teammates.

According to Ryan, forming the AEFs involved changes in doctrine, organization and process.

“Large organizations don’t turn on a dime,” he said. “But the professionalism in America’s Air Force — our enlisted members, officers, and civilians, active, Guard and Reserve — have made this concept work in just one year.”

In order to make Air Force deployments even more predictable and stable, Ryan said the service has set a goal of notifying tasked units 120 days in advance of their AEF deployment. “This was a struggle at the beginning, but we met that goal this summer,” he said.

Ryan also used Operation Allied Force to illustrate readiness shortfalls. Most people didn’t see “the time our people spent loading pallets, building tent cities or coaxing cannibalized aircraft,” he said. “You didn’t see the shortfalls endured back

home to ensure the front line forces had everything needed.”

Even though there has been an increase in spare parts and lower cannibalization rates since the air war, Ryan said the Air Force still has not turned readiness around. “At best, we’ve leveled off, he said.

However, he said efforts to improve readiness have come at the expense of modernization programs and the funding of Air Force infrastructure — where people work and live.

The real issue facing the Air Force is how to recapitalize the service’s rapidly aging force to meet the new challenges of the 21st century, according to the chief of staff.

“We must invest in tomorrow’s readiness as well,” he said. “Our people, whom we ask to do these tough missions, deserve nothing less.

“Those people — our people — serving quietly and faithfully are the key to our successes,” Ryan said. “They come first. And no one comes close.”

Tyndall airman tried at general court-martial

Courtesy of the 325th Fighter Wing staff judge advocate office

An airman assigned to the 325th Communications Squadron was tried at a general court-martial on Aug. 16 and 17 and was sentenced to reduction in grade to airman basic, confinement for two years and a bad conduct discharge.

Airman 1st Class Christopher A. Rendon was tried on two specifications of assault, one specification of assault consummated by a battery, one specification of aggravated assault in violation of Uniform Code of Military Justice Article 128 and one specification of willfully disobeying a lawful order in violation of UCMJ Article 92. The charges stemmed from a series of assaults by Rendon against his spouse.

Lt. Col. William E. Brown, then commander of the 325th CS, placed him into pretrial confinement June 1.

Although Rendon submitted a request for discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial, the convening authority, Maj. Gen. Steven R. Polk, 19th Air Force commander, denied it. The accused entered mixed pleas and elected to be tried by a military judge alone.

Based upon the evidence and his pleas, the military judge found the accused guilty of all charges and specifications.

The evidence produced during the sentencing portion of the trial showed Rendon had a history of violent behavior in his past personal relationships. In accordance with UCMJ Article 58b, the accused will also forfeit all pay and allowances during his period of confinement.

Rendon will serve his confinement at the Consolidated Navy Brig in Charleston, S.C. He will receive 78 days credit due to his placement in pretrial confinement.

As with all court-martial cases, the accused will receive an automatic review and appeal. The outcome of this court-martial action is currently pending.

This case underscores a silent problem that exists in some households — domestic violence. The victims of these crimes often feel helpless to prevent violence or come to believe they cannot leave the relationship. Many agencies on base and in the local area offer assistance to victims to help them break away from the cycle of violence.

Tyndall’s chapel schedule

Protestant

Communion Service: 9:30 a.m. Chapel 1

General Protestant Service: 11:00 a.m. Chapel 2

Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Kids’ Club: 2:45-5:45 p.m. Wednesday

Catholic

Daily Mass: noon Monday through Friday, Chapel 2; Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday

Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, Chapel 2

Mass: 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Chapel 2

Religious education: 10:40 a.m. Sunday

Chapel 1: 283-2691

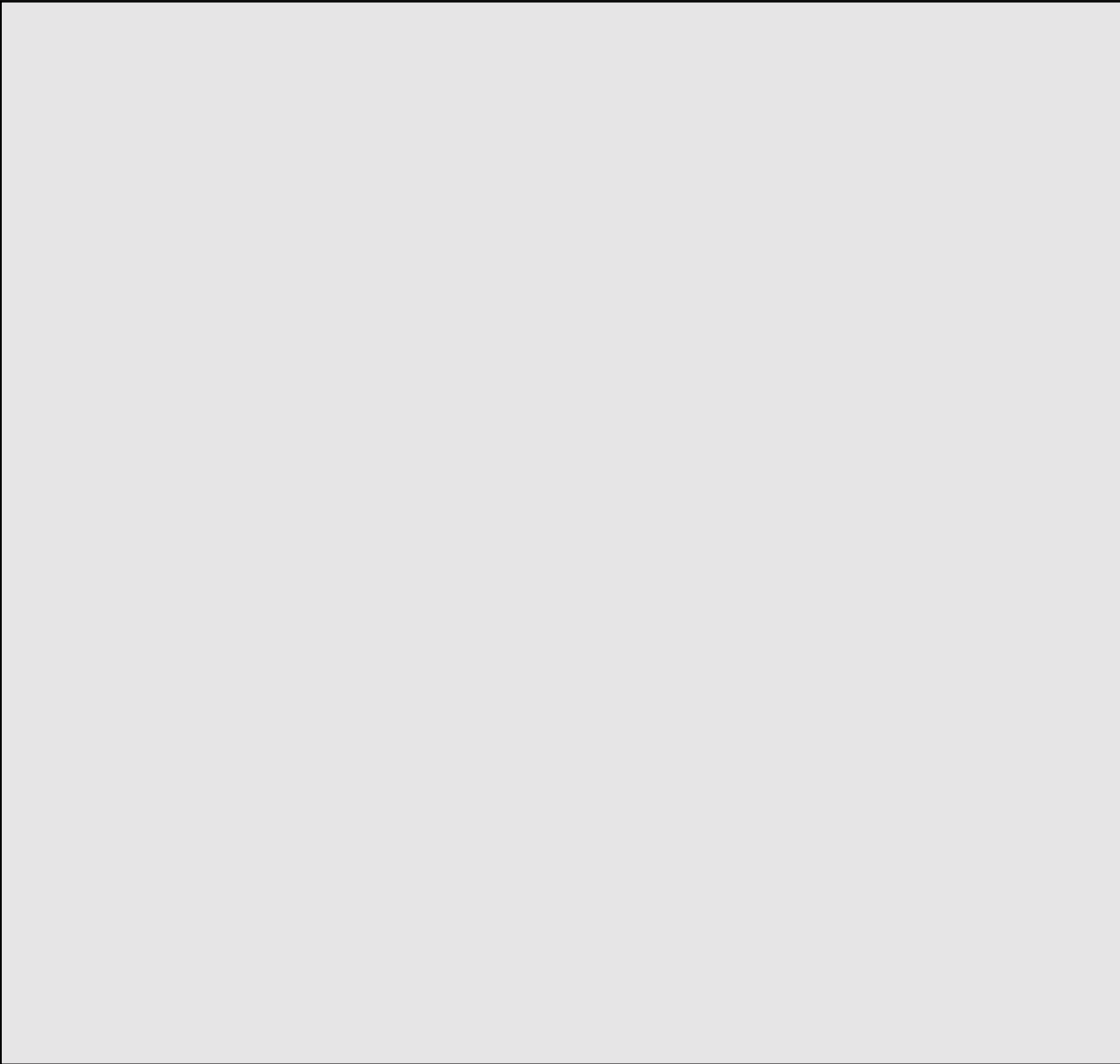
Chapel 2: 283-2925

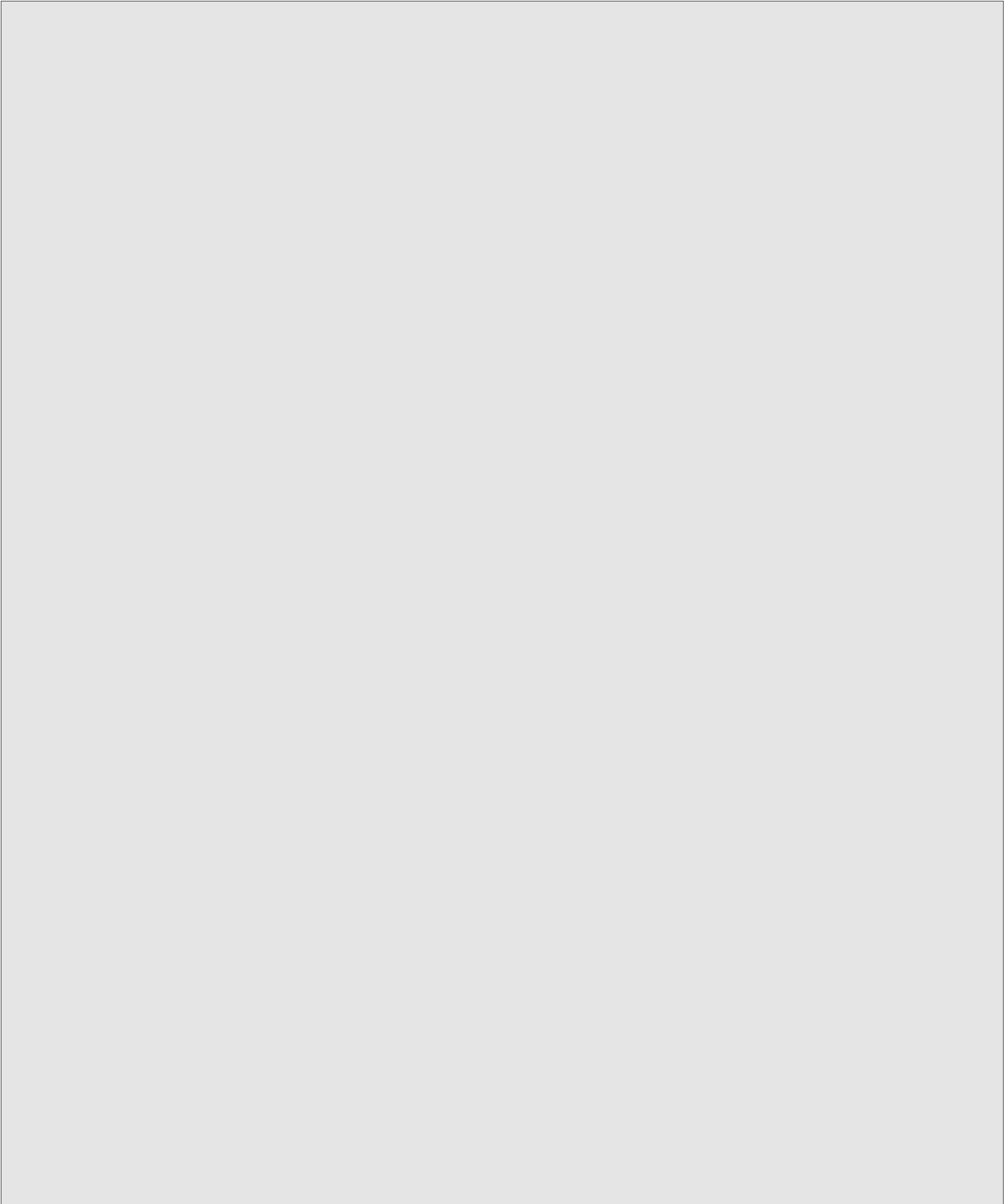
Spiritual Maintenance: 283-2367

Other faith groups: Call 283-2925



Think before you drink.





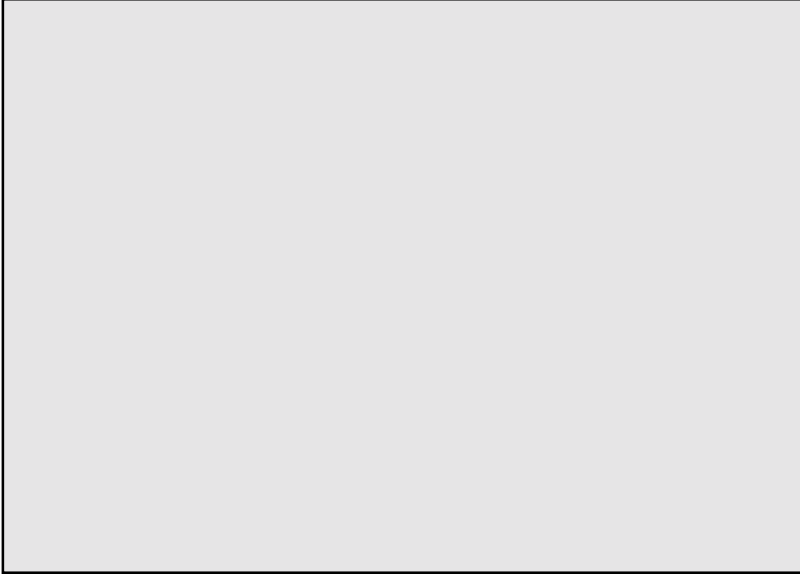
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‘stay with us — see what’s going to happen. Look and see the changes that are coming and be a part of it. It’s very exciting.’”

One of these exciting opportunities for the Air Force and AETC is the F-22 Raptor weapons system, America’s premier air superiority fighter, Hornburg said. “It’s (the F-22) vital to our air superiority,” he said. “We need to maintain our air superiority, and we won’t do it unless we get the F-22. Without it, we’ll be at air-parity at best — and

that’s not good enough.

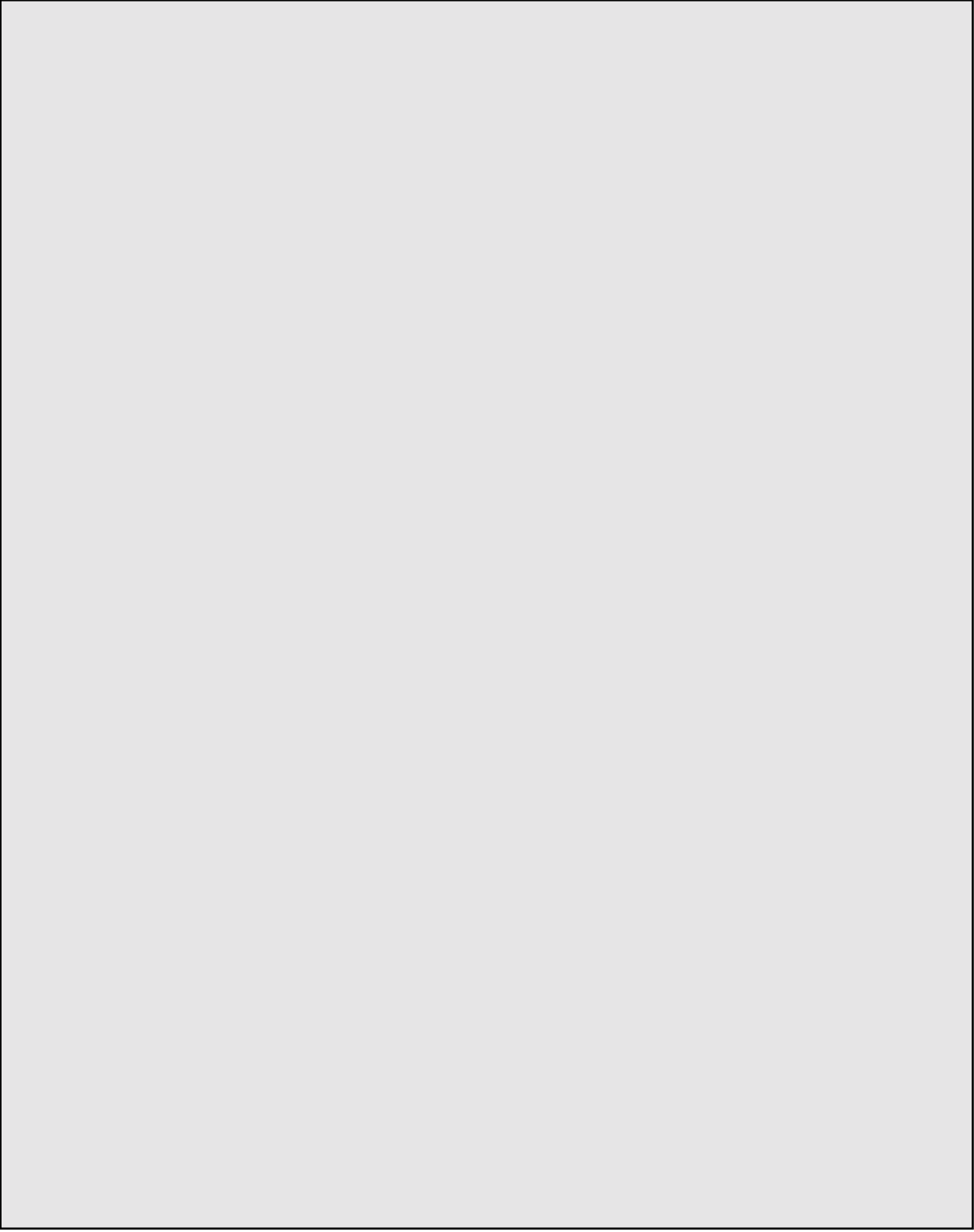
“We’ve got to be able to gain control of the skies,” Hornburg continued. “We’ve got to be able to maintain that control. We must deny the enemy the opportunity to fly and then fly at the time and place of our choosing. That helps protect the people on the ground and it gives us the ability to operate in ways we could not possibly envision operating without air superiority. So the F-22 is vital to not only us in the Air Force, it’s vital to America.”



Master Sgt. Rob Fuller

Gas, gas, gas

Armando Argiz, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron readiness flight chief, evaluates Team Tyndall members’ ability to properly don the chemical ensemble within the prescribed time during last week’s deployment and employment exercise.



Viewpoint

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129, or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Safety stats

Category	'00	'99	Trend
On duty	1	0	+1
Off duty	7	6	+1
Traffic	3	1	+2
Sports	3	5	-2
Fatalities	1	0	+1
DUIs	13	7	+6

Commander's Corner:



Brig. Gen. Hodgkins

Brig. Gen. William F. Hodgkins
325th Fighter Wing commander

This weekend we have an opportunity as Team Tyndall and as a community to have an immediate impact on something bigger than ourselves — our environment. Saturday is the Annual International Coastal Cleanup. You and your families can help keep our beaches clean and learn about the sources of pollution by taking part in this worthwhile endeavor.

This is a global project of the Center for Marine Conservation and is supported by an international network of environmental and civic organizations, government agencies, industries and individuals that remove debris and collect valuable information on the amount and types of debris found. The information gathered serves to educate the public on marine-debris issues and to encourage positive changes that will reduce debris in waterways and enhance aquatic environments. You can get involved locally by meeting 8 a.m. Saturday at the Tyndall Beach pavilion. So come out and make a difference. For more information contact the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron, 283-4354.

Although our beaches are important and some of the most beautiful ones in the world, we also have to remember to maintain our work facilities and housing areas. In that regard, I'd like to thank you all for the effort to make our base "shine" for Gen. Hornburg's visit earlier this week. We can proudly display the most technologically advanced weapons systems and programs in the business, but it is our base appear-

ance that makes the first impression. So, I encourage everyone to keep taking a good hard look around, visit the self-help centers if necessary, and let's keep Tyndall the most beautiful base in the Air Force.

The 2000 Olympic Games isn't the only sporting news around, 16 Team Tyndall members participated in the Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio Saturday. I congratulate the men and women who took the time to prepare, train and run in the race. A marathon or marathon relay aren't easy events to complete and says a great deal for the commitment, determination and stamina of these folks. It's 26.2 of the toughest miles most runners ever face, and the course at Wright-Patterson is designed for a challenge. Again, congratulations and I hope the experience was rewarding.

I always look for ways to offer new or improved services to our community. The latest opportunity comes right in our own newspaper, the *Gulf Defender*. We'll soon offer space for free classified advertisements. The guidelines will be very specific and are explained in detail on page 20 of this issue. So, be looking for ads in future issues of the *Gulf Defender*.

Finally, I'd like to share a note on our AEF deployments. I saw the members from the Security Forces Squadron off for another deployment this past weekend — it was a great send off. I know there are a lot of people in the wing involved in that process and would like to thank all who deploy and support our AEFs for a job well done.

Have a great week and remember we're America's Air Force ... no one comes close!



Action Line



Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb

Staff Sgt. Greg L. Smith, 325th Medical Group immunizations NCOIC, right, discusses the monthly immunization mobility compliance statistics report with Col. Michael J. Murphy, 325th MDG commander. This report allows the 325th MDG to see a snapshot of how well Tyndall is immunizing mobility assigned members.

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency. The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first

sergeants or facility managers. If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For **fraud, waste and abuse** calls, you should talk to the office of inspections, 283-4646. Calls concerning **energy abuse** should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Brig. Gen. William F. Hodgkins
325th Fighter Wing commander

AF members urged to exercise right to vote

Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Given that absentee voting has never been easier, every citizen should exercise their right to vote according to Polli Brunelli, Federal Voting Assistance Program director.

In the 1996 elections, 25 percent of military members did not vote because they did not receive their requested ballots or did not receive them in time to vote and return them by the state deadlines for counting, Brunelli said. FVAP officials want to ensure military members have a successful voting process.

"We hope to encourage everyone under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to make a proper

request to register to vote and to do so in a timely manner," Brunelli said. "We're saying: Do it now."

Absentee voting has never been easier, Brunelli explained. Each installation has a voting-assistance officer who can provide guidance on how to register, how to vote by absentee ballot and how to contact the FVAP, if needed.

The biggest obstacle facing military members and their families who have yet to register is time.

"There is not much time left before the general election on Nov. 7," Brunelli stressed. "Anyone wishing to register should fill out a postage-paid Federal Post Card Application (for voting by absentee ballot) and

AF celebrates its birthday

Tech. Sgt. Kelly Morgan

43rd Airlift Wing
history office

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C. (AFPN) — After 40 years of labor pains, the birth certificate of the Air Force was signed Sept. 18, 1947.

The National Security Act of 1947 provided for the Air Force to be established as an autonomous arm of the new Department of Defense. On the same date as its birth, W. Stuart Symington became secretary of the Department of the Air Force. Eight days later, on Sept. 26, Gen. Carl A. Spaatz became the Air Force’s first chief of staff.

The creation of the Air Force did not occur overnight. On Aug. 1, 1907, the Army established the Aeronautical Division of the Army Signal Corps. The Aeronautical Division did not receive congressional funding specifically for aeronautics until four years later. In those four years, maintenance funds for the division came from money earmarked for military telephone and telegraph maintenance.

After the United States entered World War I in April, 1917, it became evident that the Signal Corps was not the proper organization for America’s fledgling combat air forces. The War Department

created the Army Air Service on May 24, 1918. The Air Service troop strength during the nine months of combat reached 197,338 and boasted more than 185 aero squadrons and numerous support squadrons.

On March 1, 1935, the General Headquarters of the Air Force became operational at Langley Field, Va. The GHAF assumed control over tactical squadrons, while the Chief of the Air Corps remained responsible for doctrine, training, supply and procurement.

When the German Luftwaffe demonstrated the advantages of air power during the 1938 invasion of Czechoslovakia, the War Department began rapid expansion of the Air Corps. The Army Air Corps swelled from 24,000 men and 2,400 aircraft in 1939 to 2,253,000 men and 63,715 aircraft in 1945.

The oncoming confrontation with the Axis powers also created a blitz of reorganization in the War Department. Gen. George C. Marshall became commander of both the Air Corps and GHAF.

As the force grew, new echelons of command and structure were created. In 1942, the War Department created three divisions of the Army: Army Ground Forces, Army Service Forces and the Army Air Force.

The Army Air Corps comprised a major military organization at the end of World War II. Just over two years later, the U.S. Air Force received its autonomy from the Army.

Hispanic-American general was a tactical genius

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — He was an aviation pioneer, an organizer of Allied victory during World War II and a Hispanic American. He was Elwood “Pete” Quesada.

Quesada was the son of a Spanish businessman and an Irish-American mother. His military career spanned aviation history from post-World War I era biplanes to supersonic jets.

Quesada was born in Washington, D.C., in 1904, a few months after the Wright Brothers flew at Kitty Hawk, N.C. He grew up with aviation.

World War I imposed rapid growth on all things connected with planes. In 1914, when the war began, primitive aircraft scouted enemy formations. They did not fire at each other nor did they drop bombs on the enemy troops. The aviators themselves began the first moves toward arming the craft. The pilots shot at each other first with pistols and rifles and then machine guns. Bombs and rockets came next.

All through the war, the opposing sides developed planes that

flew longer, farther, faster and could do more things. After the war, aircraft development continued. The 1920s were a time of experimentation. Plane design changed from biplanes at the beginning of the decade to sleek monoplanes by the end.

Quesada started his military career in the middle of this ferment. He entered the Army Air Service as a flying cadet in 1924. He went through flight school at what is now Brooks AFB, Texas, then called Brooks Field, and advanced training at neighboring Kelly AFB.

Having only a reserve commission, Quesada found the active Army Air Service had no space for him. He returned to civilian life, playing baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals. In 1927, he returned to the Air Service and received a Regular Army commission. He reported to Bolling Field in Washington.

Bolling AFB is now an administrative center, but its runways in 1927 were full of aircraft flown by some of the most innovative thinkers in the Army Air Corps. Pete Quesada joined then — Maj. Carl “Tooey” Spaatz and then — Capt. Ira Eaker in developing air-

to-air refueling.

On Jan. 1, 1929, a three-engine Fokker C-2A rose into the air from Metropolitan Airport in Los Angeles. It did not land again until Jan. 6. Quesada, Spaatz and Eaker shared piloting duties aboard the plane, dubbed the “Question Mark.”

Throughout their five days aloft, the Fokker crew took in fuel from a Douglas C-1C that passed a hose in flight — as well as oil, water and food. In all, the Fokker crew made 37 mid-air transfers and flew more than 11,000 nonstop miles.

Today, air-to-air refueling is almost routine. The United States bases the B-2 bomber in Missouri, knowing that no spot on the globe is too far away thanks to inflight refueling. This started with the flight of the Question Mark.

But Quesada’s larger contribution came during World War II. The fabulous Allied air-ground machine that chewed up Nazi forces in Europe didn’t just materialize. It was Quesada’s baby.

Even before the war, Quesada — like many others — had been thinking of the place of air power. But where others looked to strategic bombing, Quesada

concentrated on the tactical application of air power. During classes at Maxwell Field, Ala., and at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Quesada began to build the concept of close air support. He predicted the next war would require “all sorts of arrangements between the air and the ground, and the two will have to work closer than a lot of people think or want.”

He got the chance to put his theories into practice. In December 1942, he was promoted to brigadier general and sent to North Africa to command the 12th Fighter Command. He put his ideas through the crucible of combat, and they evolved into Army Air Forces field regulations “Command and Employment of Air Power,” published in July 1943.

At the heart of these regulations is the premise that air superiority is the prerequisite for successful ground operations. Further, he said, the air and ground commanders must be equals and there had to be centralized command of air assets to exploit the flexibility of air power.

In October 1943, Quesada went to England and assumed command

of the 9th Fighter Command and readied that unit for the Normandy invasion. During the build-up and breakout that followed the invasion, Quesada was at his best. He placed forward air observers with divisions on the ground, and they could call for air support. He mounted radios in tanks so ground commanders could contact pilots directly. He pioneered the use of radar to vector planes during attacks. This was particularly helpful during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, when bad weather hid many German targets.

The air-ground apparatus he put together was the best in the world. After the war, he was the first commander of the Tactical Air Command. He moved the headquarters from Tampa, Fla., to Langley AFB, Va., so he could be close to the headquarters of the Army Ground Forces. When the Air Force became a separate service in 1947, he went along as a lieutenant general.

Quesada retired from the Air Force in 1951. He served as the first head of the Federal Aviation Administration and held positions in private firms.

Quesada died in Washington in 1993.

Air Force promotes pollution prevention

Olga Purpura-Clark
Air Education and Training Command public affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AETCNS) – National Pollution Prevention Week kicked off Monday, highlighting activities across America to spur people on in the fight against pollution. More than ever, pollution-prevention experts are pointing out that individual people will win this battle.

Many of us actively participate in base and individual community environmental protection programs, but often forget one important facet — that household products contribute to hazardous waste. We have a tendency to identify hazardous waste with industrial facilities but not with the home.

Paints, pesticides, motor oils, cleansers, solvents and batteries are examples of hazardous materials. Statistics indicate there are more chemicals in the home today than a chemical laboratory 100 years ago, and most are improperly discarded. According to environmental experts, more than 60 percent of do-it-yourselfers dispose of used automotive oil in sewers, onto the ground or into household trash. One oil change from one car engine poured into a storm drain can create an eight-acre slick.

Take it a step further. Picture a city of 50,000 with every household dumping five gallons of hazardous material in the garbage per year. This is 250,000 gallons of waste that would

convert into more than 41 tons of hazardous waste, according to an Ohio State University study.

The preferred solution — to purchase non-toxic alternatives — is not always realistic. Sometimes hazardous products are necessary for good performance. Some products provide safe-disposal information, but for others, vague instructions or none at all. Read the warning information on the container to help identify hazardous contents. Contact the company on the label for specific disposal instructions or check with your base for a hazardous waste collection system.

For example, at Randolph AFB, Texas, employees and base residents can turn in products at a designated hazardous waste collection site any time during normal working hours. Items brought in their original containers that are still usable are available for distribution to others through the self-help store.

The Ohio State University study recommends these steps for safe disposal of household hazardous waste:

- Never burn or dump any hazardous waste on the ground.
- Do not dispose of any hazardous material “down the sink” unless you are sure it can safely be disposed into the sewer system.
- Avoid burying containers or leftover chemicals.
- Do not mix hazardous wastes and do not collect containers and chemicals to dispose of them at one time.
- Solidify liquid wastes by using an absorbent material, such as sawdust,

kitty litter, paper towels or rags, to soak up a liquid hazardous material. Do not solidify more than one chemical at a time. Use gloves, sweep or dispose of the material into a plastic bag, and then dispose of it with other household garbage. This same process can be used with any “empty” container other than an aerosol container.

- With aerosol cans, turn the container upside down and depress the spray button, with the nozzle facing paper towels, rags or other absorbent surfaces. When the spray has lost pressure, wrap the can in several layers of newspaper and dispose with household refuse.
- Solidify latex paint by exposing the paint to air. When dried, dispose of the paint and container with household refuse. Wrap empty containers in several layers of newspaper before disposal. This prevents environmental contamination and reactive potential.
- Antifreeze can be flushed down the toilet if the house is connected to a sewer system. Avoid drain disposal of any type of chemical product in septic tanks.
- Pesticides, herbicides, oil paints, paint cleaners, oil and transmission fluids should never be flushed into a water system or disposed of on the ground or put into household refuse. Turn in these items to a hazardous waste collection system.
- Automobile batteries should also be turned in to a hazardous waste collection system.

You can use these tips to make a difference — help protect today’s environment for a safe and healthy tomorrow.

Survey to evaluate officer development

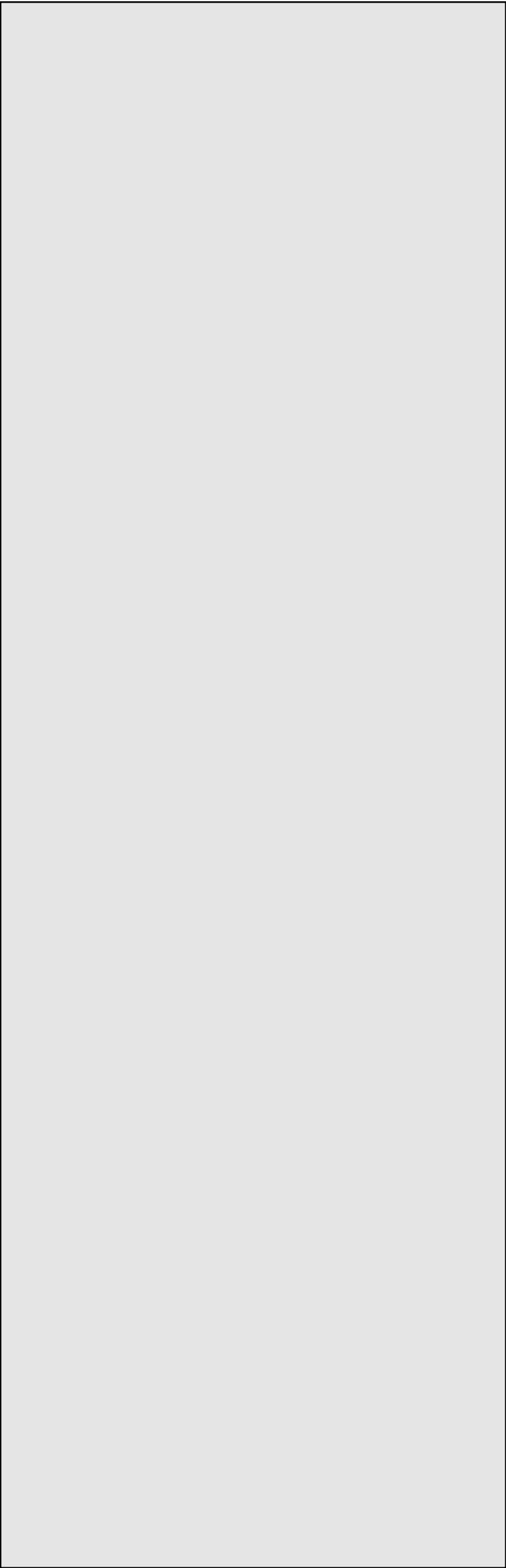
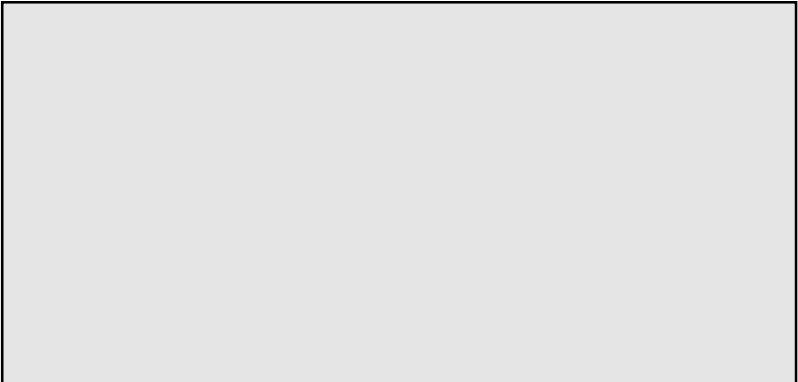
WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Nearly 18,000 Air Force people can expect to receive a survey designed to gather information on leadership competencies and officership among the service’s officer corps.


The web-based survey is part of the Air Force’s ongoing efforts to evaluate the professional development of its people and to develop procedures to help ensure they understand and can employ the full spectrum of aerospace operations, said Maj. Kathleen Cook, with the Developing Aerospace Leaders program office.

The Air Force Personnel Center is scheduled to release the survey via the World Wide Web within the next week.

It will remain available through Nov. 30. The survey will look at randomly selected officers in the ranks of first lieutenant through lieutenant colonel across various Air Force specialties, officials said.


To accomplish such an in-depth review of the selected individuals, their supervisors, peers and subordinates may also receive the survey. “I encourage everyone to be honest and candid in their responses,” said Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff. “Only then can we begin to determine what tools and programs are required to help promote an institutional understanding of the development, employment and support of aerospace power.”





Combined Federal Campaign: Why I give

Staff Sgt. Christina Thornburg
Unit: 325th Operations Support Squadron
Job Title: Airfield management specialist
Hometown: Queens, N.Y.
Why I give: “I just like to help whenever I can. You never know when somebody could use a little help.”



Master Sgt. Rob Fuller

Air Force ‘brat’ shares helpful hints

Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

PHOENIX (AFPN) — A self-proclaimed Air Force “brat” shared stories about her mom and dad with military families recently, and offered a few helpful hints.

Syndicated columnist Heloise, dubbed the “high priestess of household hints” by the *New York Daily News*, addressed about 800 military family support specialists at the Department of Defense Family

Readiness Conference recently. Her “Hints by Heloise” column appears in 500 newspapers throughout the United States.

She’s also the daughter of retired Lt. Col. Mike Cruse. Her late mother, the original Heloise, started the renowned column while the family was stationed in Hawaii.

“In some ways, ‘Hints from Heloise’ is the ultimate good news story for spouse employment, relocation, personal financial management and transition,” said Rebecca

Posante in introducing the columnist. Posante, the DOD’s office of family policy, family policy specialist, had invited Heloise after reading a column Heloise had written about a visit to Randolph AFB, Texas.

“To my great surprise, Heloise said she would be greatly honored,” Posante recalled. With a round of welcoming applause, the military audience at the DOD conference warmly embraced one of their own.

“Yesterday, I was speaking to my attorney in New York,” Heloise told the group. “He asked, ‘Where are you and what are you doing? I said I was in Phoenix and that I was doing a speech for the Department of Defense.

“He said, ‘Hmmm. Let me see, Heloise — Department of Defense. Heloise — Department of Defense. I don’t get it.”

“I said, ‘Why? I’m going to help them. Did you know that you can use vinegar to keep those missiles really clean?’”

Actually, Heloise knows all about the military. She knows what it’s like to move every few years. She also knows what it’s like when dad’s gone temporary duty for long periods of time.

Opening her talk, Heloise showed a photo of her dad in uniform and said he is now 80. “I’m a military brat and proud of it. My father was in the Air Force, so my mother was in the Air Force — our family was in the Air Force,” she said.

When her family was stationed in Hawaii from 1958 to 1962, people didn’t get to call home, she recalled. Instead, once or twice a year, they’d go to the base radio shack and ham radio operators back home would link up relatives there.

“We actually wrote letters and waited for an answer back,” Heloise said. “What a concept!” She lauded today’s Internet connections, e-mail, video conferencing and other technology that allow real-time communication between families and deployed loved ones.

Heloise said that during coffee klatches with her neighbors, her legendary mother started a support system for military wives. Nurse, mother, friend, counselor — the creative, aggressive Air Force wife with a colorful and dramatic flare greeted tired families arriving from the continental United States. After the death of her first husband, also a military man, she helped grieving service-members’ widows.

In the same vein, the late Heloise began writing the helpful hints column that still continues 40 years later.

Heloise credits her military upbringing with giving her the confidence to go anywhere in the world. “Being military, you learned to take care of yourself, but when there was a time you needed something,” she said, “you knew the support services were out there.”

Features

Air Force member lives an Olympic-sized dream ... Dancing to the beat of a different drummer



Courtesy photos

Top: Senior Airman Lyvier Rivera, 355th Component Repair Squadron, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., center, performs a folklorico dance with the Tucson, Ariz., La Paloma Dance Company. Rivera and the dance company left Wednesday to perform at the 2000 Summer Olympics. **Right:** Rivera inventories an electronic bin as part of her military duties.



Karen Halstead
355th Wing
public affairs

When Lyvier Rivera joined the Air Force three and a half years ago, she wanted to travel and see the world, but her first assignment brought the Tucson, Ariz. native back home — to the 355th Component Repair Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. But, this will be a year this senior airman won't soon forget.

Rivera not only has a line number for staff sergeant, but she is also going to the Olympics; not as a spectator either ... as a performer.

When she's not wearing her military uniform she's wearing another uniform. She dons a dancer's costume and performs with Tucson's La Paloma Dance Company, who have been asked to provide entertainment at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

La Paloma is the only folklorico dance group invited to entertain at the Olympics. A mariachi band from Nogales, Ariz., will also attend the Olympics and provide music for the dance group, Rivera said.

The price tag for the dance company to perform at the Olympics is approximately \$40,000. After the city of Tucson donated about half the cost, each dancer had to finance about \$2,400 to attend this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The dance company was scheduled to depart Tucson Wednesday and is expected to return Sept. 29.

Rivera has been dancing since she was 7. "It started with my parents," she said. "I was really shy and my mom wanted me to be involved in dancing to help me with my shyness. I've loved dancing and her extra little push has helped me."

As she grew up and progressed with her dance abilities and skills, she also taught dance and joined a professional dance company. At the age of 21, Rivera decided she would take a break from the tough regimen of working and dancing so she could concentrate on raising money to continue her dance career.

"I wanted to work so I could have enough money to attend dance workshops," she said. Instead, "I got caught up with work and forgot about dancing."

"I was a little disappointed at first that I returned to my hometown," she said of her first Air Force assignment. But she said she got the itch to dance again and got back into it quickly.

Rivera studied tap, ballet, jazz and flamenco, but now is dedicated to

folklorico dancing — a type of Mexican dancing. She hasn't been on the sidelines either; she's been selected to dance by professionals.

"It was an honor to have the professional musicians select me to dance," she said.

Rivera admits that after not dancing for five to six years, her biggest concern is she will have stage fright in front of such a large audience. "The audiences at the Olympics will be the largest our group has danced for," she said.

From the information Rivera received about the company's Olympic dancing schedule, she expects to be busy from sunrise to sundown. They will perform three, 45-minute shows for three days, while strolling through the Olympic village, as well as give performances at the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Wonderland and on cruise ships.

"Our dance company is hoping the Olympic experience will provide us with good exposure," she said.

"I'm very excited, yet very nervous," Rivera said of her upcoming Olympic performances. "I can't believe this is happening. The pressure will really be on. It's

unbelievable and I think I'm still in shock. The reality of being there probably won't hit me until I'm there and actually dancing."

The dance company has been having rigorous practice sessions. "We wanted to be as professional as possible and with the exposure, we hope our involvement with the Olympics will open doors for our dance company," she said.

Rivera also jogs and uses "Tae-bo" to keep herself in shape to dance. "It takes a lot of energy," she said. "It's hard to juggle work and a family life."

"After my teen years, I went professional," she said. "The older you are you understand the nitty gritty (of the dancing profession). Professionals need to stay focused, disciplined and motivated. If you're not, you won't get through anything."

"That's what's really great about our dance group," Rivera added. "We are all equally focused and want the same goal. It's a really great feeling ... we're like a family."

Rivera credits her flight with great support. "They have been so supportive of me and my dance practice schedule," she said. "The flight has been so flexible. They are a great group of people."

In addition to her flight, Rivera said her real motivation is her family. "I want to thank my mom and sister," she said. "They are real confidence builders and see the real me. Without them I would have been dormant. They helped me open my eyes and see what I can do."

"I can't believe this is happening. The pressure will really be on. It's unbelievable and I think I'm still in shock."

Teamwork:



From left to right: Master Sgt. Phil Holzer, Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Boyd, Col. Frank Noragon and Tech. Sgt. Chuck Keasey, 'Four on the Floor' relay team members, proudly display their ribbons after competing in the Fourth Annual Air Force Marathon.



With a sunrise start, approximately 3,000 runners from around the world converged onto Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio for the Fourth Annual Air Force Marathon Saturday.



From left to right: Keasey, Holzer, Noragon and Boyd do some stretching exercises before going on a run.

Tech. Sgt. Mona Ferrell 325th Fighter Wing public affairs

There's more than one way to run an effective team. For one local group it takes "Four on the Floor" and eight feet on the pavement.

Col. Frank Noragon, 1st Air Force director of logistics; Chief Master Sgt. Kathy Boyd, 1st AF superintendent maintenance engineering; Master Sgt. Phil Holzer, 1st AF propulsion branch chief and Tech. Sgt. Chuck Keasey, 1st AF avionics superintendent, banded together as a relay team Saturday, running in the Fourth Annual Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Joining nearly 3,000 other runners from 47 states and eight foreign countries, the team, appropriately named Four on the Floor, ran the 26.2-mile course alongside 338 other relay teams.

"Teamwork is a great motivational force ... knowing other people are relying on you – it makes a big difference."

Master Sgt. Phil Holzer

course is broken into four different legs. Because of the terrain, each leg is a different length, depending on the course difficulty. "For instance, the first leg is almost all hills, so it's five miles long," he said. "The third leg of the course is more level so its length is 7.4 miles."

All runners are required to wear a band around their leg which contains an electronic chip, Noragon said. As a relay runner completes their part of the run, they 'pass' over a magnetic pad which records the total time ran for the team.

The runner must then hand over the electronic band to their teammate before they can begin their part of the course. "Since the clock keeps ticking

while we're changing bands, we're racing against time in every sense of the word," Keasey said. "It's a great motivational tool."

While the team's final time

of 4:11:15 didn't shatter any world records, the esprit-de-corps felt from their efforts is apparent. "Teamwork is a great motivational force," Holzer said. "As with any sport, in order to run you have to be disciplined. Knowing other people are relying on you — it makes a big difference."

The importance of camaraderie can't be overestimated, Boyd agreed. "Teamwork is what it's all about. It's a lot easier getting up in the morning when you know that your other 'teammates' will be running on the path too — they really keep me going."

And what about next year? Will 'Four on the Floor' beat feet next year at the Fifth Annual Air Force Marathon? "If I can motivate them," Boyd said with a laugh.

(Editor's note: Running individually, 12 other Team Tyndall members also participated in this year's Air Force marathon.)

Your link to what's going on

Gulf Guide

SEPTEMBER

FRI
22

Resume workshop

A resume workshop is 8-10 a.m. today in the family support center classroom. Assistance will be given in resume preparation and production. For more information or reservations, call the family support center, 283-4205.

High year tenure

The continuation of the temporary high year of tenure extension policy program is open to most enlisted personnel, senior airman through senior master sergeant, reaching mandatory HYT between now and Sept. 30, 2002. Eligible members may apply from Sept. 29 through Aug. 31, 2001. For more information, call the military personnel flight, 283-2244 or 283-4144.

SAT
23

Coastal cleanup

A meeting for anyone interested in taking part in the September International Coastal Cleanup will be 8 a.m. Saturday at the NCO Beach pavilion. Volunteers will be organized into groups and will clean up designated beach areas. Drinking water will be provided. All volunteers must wear shoes, and sunscreen is recommended. For more information, call 283-4354.

MON
25

Breast-feeding class

A breast-feeding class will be 3-5 p.m. Monday in the family advocacy conference room. For more information or to register, call family advocacy, 283-7272.

TUE
26

Couples' workshop

The four-session couples' communication workshop will continue 3-5 p.m. Tuesday in the family advocacy conference room. For more information or to register, call family advocacy, 283-7272.

Boating skills course

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 19 boating skills and seamanship course will continue 7-9 p.m. Tuesday in the classroom next to the Coast Guard Station on the Coastal Systems Station. The course will offer knowledge of seamanship and navigation rules. There is no charge for the instruction, but a \$25 material charge is necessary for the textbook and study guide. The course will meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings until Oct. 10. For more information and a course schedule with a map to the classroom location, call Don O'Neal, 769-1896.

Boating safety course

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 16 boating skills and seamanship course will continue 7-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in Room 231 of Gibson lecture hall in GCCC's Student Union East building. The core portion of the course

will be Tuesdays and Thursdays, ending Oct. 2. The full course will end Oct. 31. The cost of the course is \$30 for the text and workbook. For more information, call Paul Sutliff, 271-0650, evenings, or visit the Flotilla web site at: www.gctr.com/flotl_6.html.

THU
28

Parent-teen focus group

A healthy parenting teen-focus group hosted by Auburn University staff will be Thursday at the Tyndall Youth Center. The staff is hoping to meet with 10 teams consisting of one parent and one teen. For more information or to sign up, call Susan Morelos, 283-4326.

'Best Beginnings' class

A 'Best Beginnings' class for expectant parents will be 9 a.m.-noon Thursday in the family support center classroom. Topics will include common pregnancy discomforts, finances, couples' communication and baby safety. The Air Force Aid Society will provide a layette to each participating family. For more information and registration, call the family support center, 283-4204.

FRI
29

Position opening

An opening exists for command chief master sergeant for the 50th Space Wing, Schriever AFB, Colo. The reporting date is Nov. 30. Chiefs interested in applying can send their application package to: 50 SW/CC, Attention Col. Richard Weber, 50 SW/CC, 210 Falcon Parkway, Suite 2101, Schriever AFB, Colo. 80912. The package has to arrive no later than Sept. 29. For more information, call the military personnel flight, 283-2244 or 283-4144.

NOTES

Highway 98 milling

Anderson Columbia is milling the westbound lanes of Highway 98 from the Dupont Bridge through Tyndall Drive. Work will then proceed in the eastbound lanes. They are also planning to place asphalt shortly before the milling is complete. Motorists are advised to exercise extreme caution when traveling to and from the base as lane closures are expected.

Mentors needed

Mentors are needed at Patterson Elementary School in Panama City. Hours and days are flexible. For more information, call Staff Sgt. James Vann, 283-3173.

Volunteer openings

Volunteer job openings are available base-wide. For more information, call Ken Horton at the family support center, 283-4204.

RETIREE NEWS

Forgotten treasure

Retirees looking for some valuable treasure may find it in their own homes in the form of old United States Savings Bonds. More than \$7 billion worth of them may be stashed away in attics and garages, no longer earning interest. These bonds could be more than 30 or 40 years old, and some are worth more than five times their face value.

Officials in the Bureau of the Public Debt, which maintains

records of the issue and redemption of all U.S. Savings Bonds and Savings Notes, say that many bonds have been lost, held as memorabilia or were purposely destroyed during World War II bond burnings.

Public Debt is taking action to get the word out to customers about matured savings bonds and to provide assistance in determining final maturity dates. Bond owners can look into the following resources: *The Savings Bond Wizard* and *The Savings Bond Calculator*. These tools help owners determine the value of their savings bonds, tell the final maturity date, the next interest accrual date and yield information. Both are available free of charge by visiting Public Debt's web site at: www.savingsbonds.gov.

Public Debt's web site also includes a special section about matured and maturing bonds. It is updated monthly to keep the public informed about which bonds have reached final maturity and no longer earn interest. Retirees are encouraged to redeem any old bonds at their local financial institution. For more information, call (800) 487-2663 or write to Savings Bonds, Parkersburg, W.Va. 26106-1328, Re: Old Savings Bonds.

RAO newsletter

If you are a military retiree and can volunteer a few hours each week in the Tyndall Retiree Activities Office, call 283-2737 between 9 a.m. and noon or e-mail: tyndallrao@aol.com.

Home delivery of the *Gulf Defender* is available for \$16.50 a year by calling the *Panama City News Herald*, 747-5000 or (800) 945-8888.

Air Force retiree news is also posted on the Tyndall Home Page. Visit the news section to see an electronic copy of the *Gulf Defender* posted weekly or visit the Air Force Retiree Affairs Home Page at Randolph AFB, Texas through Tyndall's Retiree Activities link at: www.tyndall.af.mil.

YARD SALES

There are no yard sales scheduled for Saturday.

BASE THEATER

Today: "Coyote Ugly" (PG-13, sensuality, 101 min.)

Saturday: "Coyote Ugly"

Sunday: "Space Cowboys" (PG-13, some language, 130 min.)

Thursday: "Dinosaur" (PG-13, intense images, 84 min.)

BERG-LILES DINING FACILITY

Today

Lunch: baked tuna and noodles, barbecued chicken

Dinner: baked fish, meat loaf

Saturday

Lunch: roasted turkey, ground beef cordon bleu

Dinner: herb-baked chicken, southern-fried catfish fillets

Sunday

Lunch: chicken Parmesan, grilled Salisbury steak

Dinner: veal paprika steaks, lemon-baked fish

Monday

Lunch: beef pot pie with biscuit topping, savory-baked chicken

Dinner: Cajun meat loaf, cheese manicotti

Tuesday

Lunch: herb-baked fish, beef porcupines

Dinner: grilled ham steak, chili macaroni

Wednesday

Lunch: hamburger Yakisoba, Chinese five-spice chicken

Dinner: fish and chips, baked Italian sausage

Thursday

Lunch: hot and spicy chicken, roasted pork loin

Dinner: pork chow mein, lemon-herbed chicken

Menus are subject to change.

AF anti-terrorism operations rely on THREATCONS

Maj. William J. Costlow
325th Fighter Wing
operational readiness preparation
office

THREATCON is an acronym for threat condition. THREATCONS are used to describe progressive levels of terrorist threats to U.S. military facilities and personnel. Whether you are active duty or a dependent, your first image of a THREATCON is likely the sign you see on a facility door — be it the library, child

development center, base exchange or your unit’s entrance. However, there is more to THREATCONS that we need to know about.

The “progressive levels of terrorist threat” mentioned above may seem like just an overseas concern, with memories of Khobar Towers or bombed embassies in Nairobi and Tanzania.

This summer, at an Air National Guard base in the Northern United States, an individual was spotted and fled, leaving a bag with explosives and

graffiti on nearby buildings. He was apprehended and prosecuted. Closer to home, last year in the Pensacola area, an individual of Middle Eastern descent approached young sailors in local bars trying to get base phone books and access to base clubs. This happened in Jacksonville and Charleston S.C. as well.

We do need to exercise responses to terrorists’ threats at Tyndall. And, unlike a Major Accident Response Exercise or a deployment and employment exercise, our

THREATCON exercises involve every wing, support and tenant activity on the base. The THREATCON information is distributed to all base members by the command post. What do you do then? If your answer is “not much,” you may create the opportunity a terrorist needs to succeed. Here’s what you should do during these THREATCONS.

THREATCON ALPHA applies when there is a general threat of possible activity against personnel and facilities, the nature and extent of

which is unpredictable. An example would be in an exercise scenario or real-world situation in which someone receives a call expressing anger about U.S. policies and in particular, U.S. military activity overseas. Base personnel should:

- Secure unoccupied buildings, rooms, and storage areas.
- Increase spot checks of entering personnel.
- Review plans for implementing higher THREATCONS.

THREATCON BRAVO applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists. An example would be a caller telling a Tampa talk radio host he will target a government facility in the Southeast. Base personnel should:

- Inspect interior and exterior of buildings for suspicious packages.
- Increase spot checks of entering personnel.
- Move vehicles, crates and trash containers at least 25 meters from buildings.

THREATCON CHARLIE applies when an incident has occurred or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and facilities is imminent. This example would be if our caller narrows his anger to a military base in the Florida panhandle within the next 24 hours. Base personnel should:

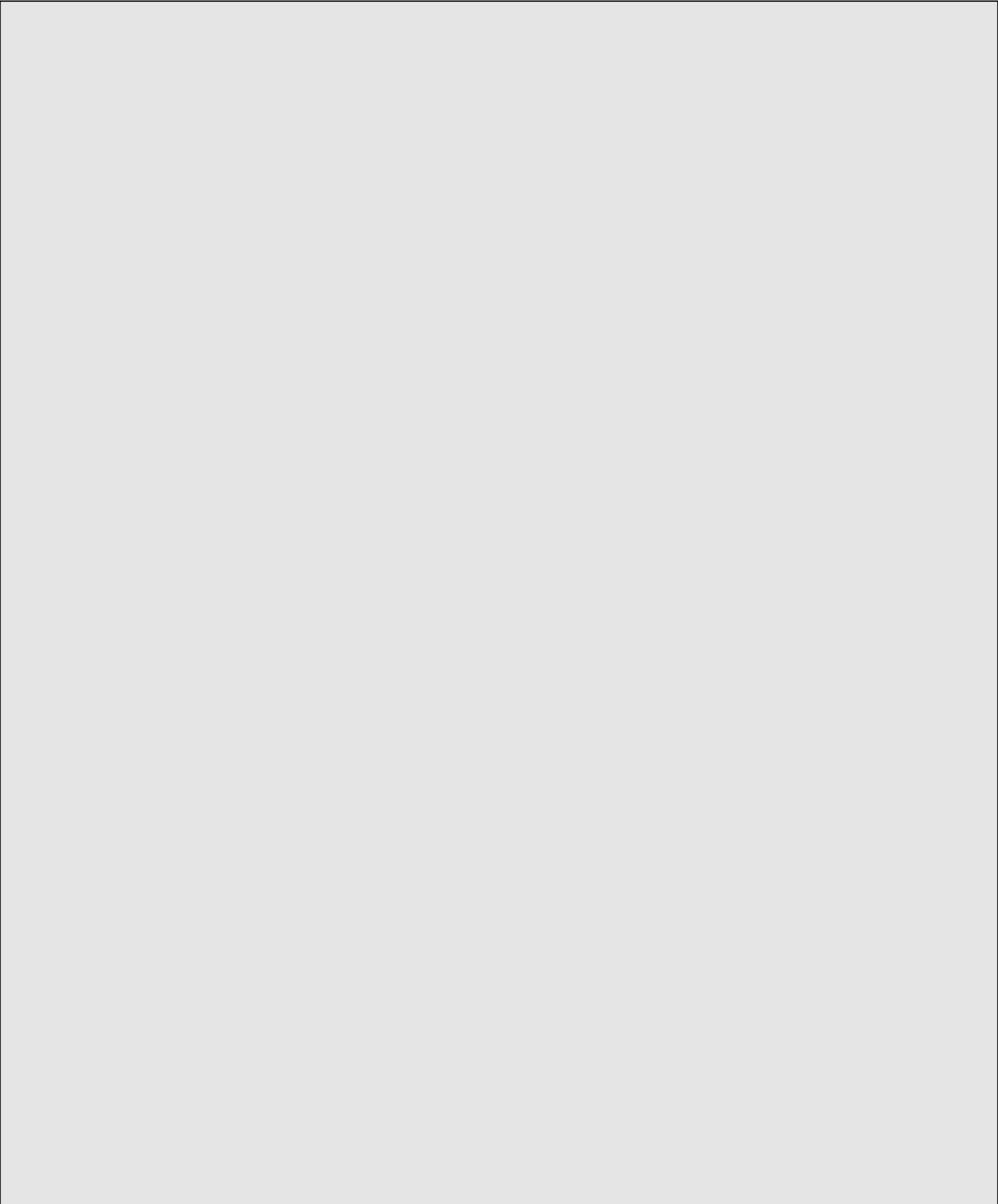
- Complete THREATCON ALPHA and BRAVO checklist items.
- Check identification of all personnel entering work centers.

THREATCON DELTA applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location is likely. An example would be if the caller’s accomplice bails out of the plan during a convenience store stop in Mexico Beach and calls the 325th Security Forces Squadron telling them his buddy plans to leave a tool box with a bomb in a hangar. Base personnel should:

- Complete THREATCON ALPHA, BRAVO, and CHARLIE checklist items.
- Ensure 24-hour-a-day security for controlled areas.
- Conduct security checks every six hours.
- Provide armed escort for all high-value items.
- Suspend all nonessential commercial deliveries.

The above information is in the Airman’s Manual and printed on new wallet cards distributed through groups and squadrons and is also available at counters in the military processing facility, finance and pass and registration.

We will have more exercises in the near future and also during the January operational readiness inspection. The threat of terrorism is real. Know what to do — it’s everyone’s responsibility.



AFCESA supports blood drive

Giving blood, money; their way to help

Tech. Sgt. Michael A. Ward
Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency public affairs

The Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency may be one of the smallest organizations at Tyndall, but to the American Red Cross, it's one of the best known. AFCESA is one of the largest blood-donating organizations on base; impressive considering its small numbers. The agency, which supports Air Force civil

engineers worldwide, has about 200 members.

"Typically, AFCESA donates 20 to 25 pints of blood each time and they are usually one of the highest donors," said 1st Lt. Dana Hosier, Tyndall Blood Drive co-coordinator. Drives are held about once a quarter and for the past seven drives, including the latest, Sept. 14-15, the agency has totaled 176 pints.

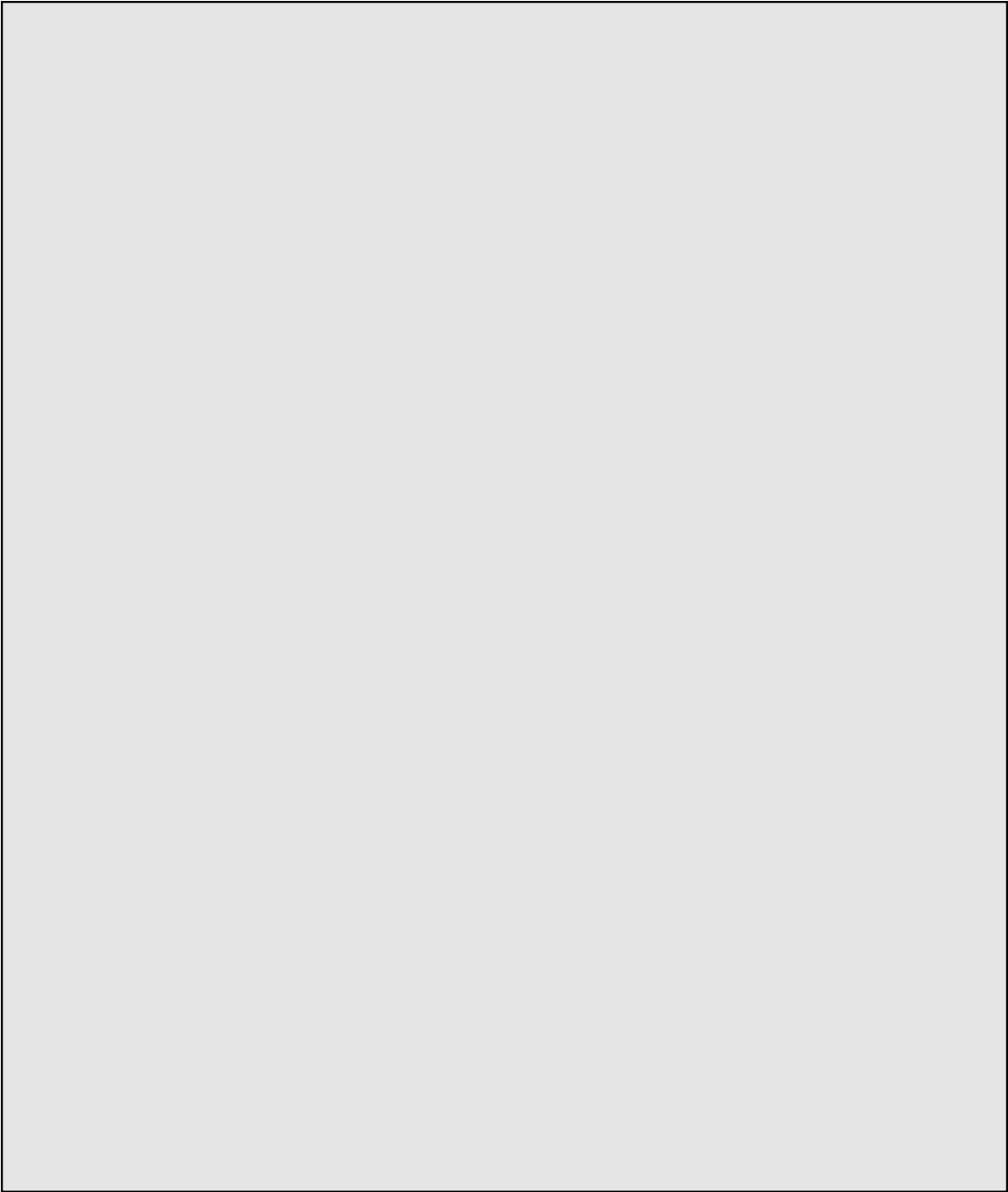
"We never have a problem getting people to participate," said Tech. Sgt. Mary Hall-Statom, AFCESA blood drive coordinator. "If they can't donate blood, they give money." The money is used to purchase baked goods given to donors to help return their blood-sugar levels to normal. The agency

donated \$143 during last week's drive.

The ARC is facing a nation-wide shortage, and the need for blood donations has taken on a greater urgency, according to Hosier. "They are currently 10,000 pints below their critical level and 50,000 pints short of what they consider a safe level," she said.

Totals are still being tabulated, said Stephanie Skoglund, ARC volunteer and Tyndall Blood Drive co-coordinator. The base-wide contribution for this last drive was between 150-175 pints, she said.

The next blood drive is at the community activities center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and at the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group, noon-6 p.m. Nov. 17.



Spotlight



2nd Lt. Angela Rogers

Tech. Sgt. Brenda L. Hamilton

Squadron: 2nd Fighter Squadron
Job title: Orderly Room NCOIC
Years at Tyndall: Three and a half
Home State: Florida
Why did you join the Air Force: To serve my country and to learn new skills.
Most exciting facet of your job: Being able to assist people and seeing good results take place in a timely and professional manner.
Short-term goals: Get an "Outstanding" in the Operational Readiness Inspection and make master sergeant.
Long-term goals: Finish my degree and figure out what I will do for a career after I retire.
Favorite book: "The Hobbit"
Favorite movie: "Face Off"
Hobbies and off-duty activities: Crocheting, aerobics and spending time with my daughters.



●VOTE from Page 5

return it before Oct. 9. If someone can’t get access to the cardstock FPCA, there is a non postage-paid version available online, however, it is only accepted by 42 states.”

It is important to return the FPCA as early as possible, according to federal voting officials, because each application must be reviewed by the local election official for eligibility before the proper absentee ballot can be sent to the requesting member. Military members should notify their local election officials when they move so the absentee ballot will be sent to the proper address.

Voters can expect to receive their absentee ballots 30 to 45 days before an election, voting officials said. If a ballot has not been received two to three weeks before an election, people should contact the FVAP ombudsman service for assistance in determining when their ballot was mailed.

“Our U.S. citizens overseas may use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot as a back-up ballot to vote for federal offices under certain conditions,” Brunelli said.

To be eligible to use a FWAB a citizen must:

- Be located overseas (including APO/FPO addresses).
- Apply for a regular ballot early enough so the

request is received by the local election official at least 30 days before the election.

- Meet the state’s voting eligibility requirements.
- Not have received the requested regular absentee ballot.

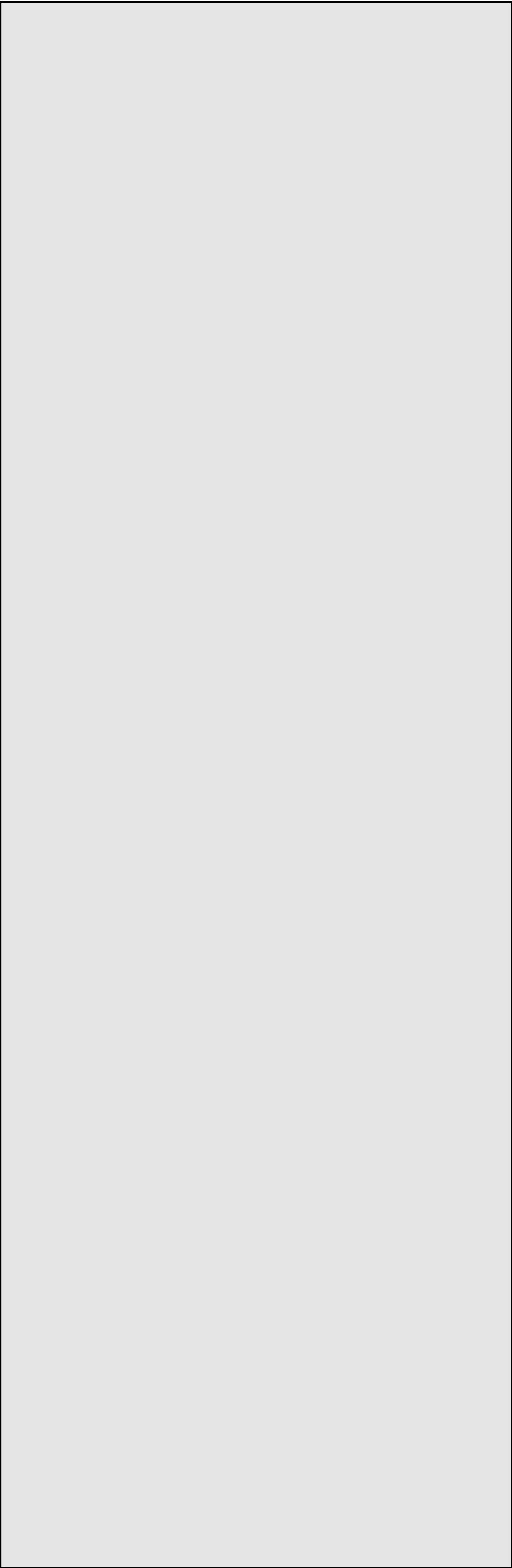
The FWAB is available from voting assistance officers located at all military installations and at U.S. embassies or consulates.

“We’re recommending that these overseas citizens send the FWAB to the local election official around Oct. 14,” Brunelli said. “They should still vote the state ballot whenever it arrives. If the state ballot arrives by the state deadline for counting, local election officials will count the state ballot and discard the FWAB.”

In addition to the traditional process, the FVAP office is undertaking measures to bring voter registration and absentee voting into the 21st century.

“We are still looking for military members who are voting residents of South Carolina, Orange County, Fla. and Weber County, Utah to participate in an Internet pilot project that will enable them to register to vote absentee, request an absentee ballot and submit their voted ballot for the 2000 general election over the pilot system,” Brunelli said.

“It is our civic responsibility to vote,” she said. “I encourage all our military and their eligible family members to participate in the democracy they so ably defend.”



Hunters should always use hunting safety rules

It’s important to use rules to save life, limb

Tech. Sgt. Vince Dotson
325th Fighter Wing safety office

Last year I took my sister deer hunting and explained all the rules for her first time. I told her the woods had a lot of greedy hunters and if she shot a deer to run right over, tag and guard it with her life. I also told her if she got in trouble to shoot her gun in the air three times.

Well, I went on my ridge and she on hers. About 30 minutes after sunrise I heard a gunshot from her ridge. I thought “Hey, great! First time out and she

bagged one.” Five minutes later I heard three more shots; she was in trouble and needed my help. As I reached her ridge, I saw her holding off another fellow with her gun. Without looking around, I walked up to the man and said, “Alright, what’s going on here?” Promptly the man looked at me and said, “Look, I don’t want any trouble from you, just let me get the saddle off first.”

Soon, hunting season at Tyndall will begin, and hunters, both young and old, will be making the necessary preparations to ensure a successful season. While every hunter is looking to fill his or her quota, it’s also important to remember to remain safe during the hunting season.

Each year, between 16 and 20 million Americans go hunting. Yet, in 1998, the last year for which complete data is available, the Hunter Education

Association’s Annual Hunting Accident Report noted there were 161 hunting-related fatalities, 49 of which were self-inflicted. The good news is this represents a 50-percent decline in hunting-related fatalities from 30 years ago.

The decline has been attributed, in part, to the availability of hunter-safety courses in all 50 states since 1978. All but six states have made hunter-safety certification mandatory to obtain a hunting license.

While the numbers show a drop in hunting-related accidents, hunters throughout the country are looking to ensure safety is a priority during the upcoming season.

The following are 10 simple

While every hunter is looking to fill his or her quota, it’s also important to remember to remain safe during the hunting season.

safety guidelines to possibly prevent an accident or injury from happening.

- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- Keep the muzzle of the firearm pointed in a safe direction.
- Keep the firearm unloaded when not in use.

Only load your gun when you are ready to hunt. Once loaded, keep the safety latch on.

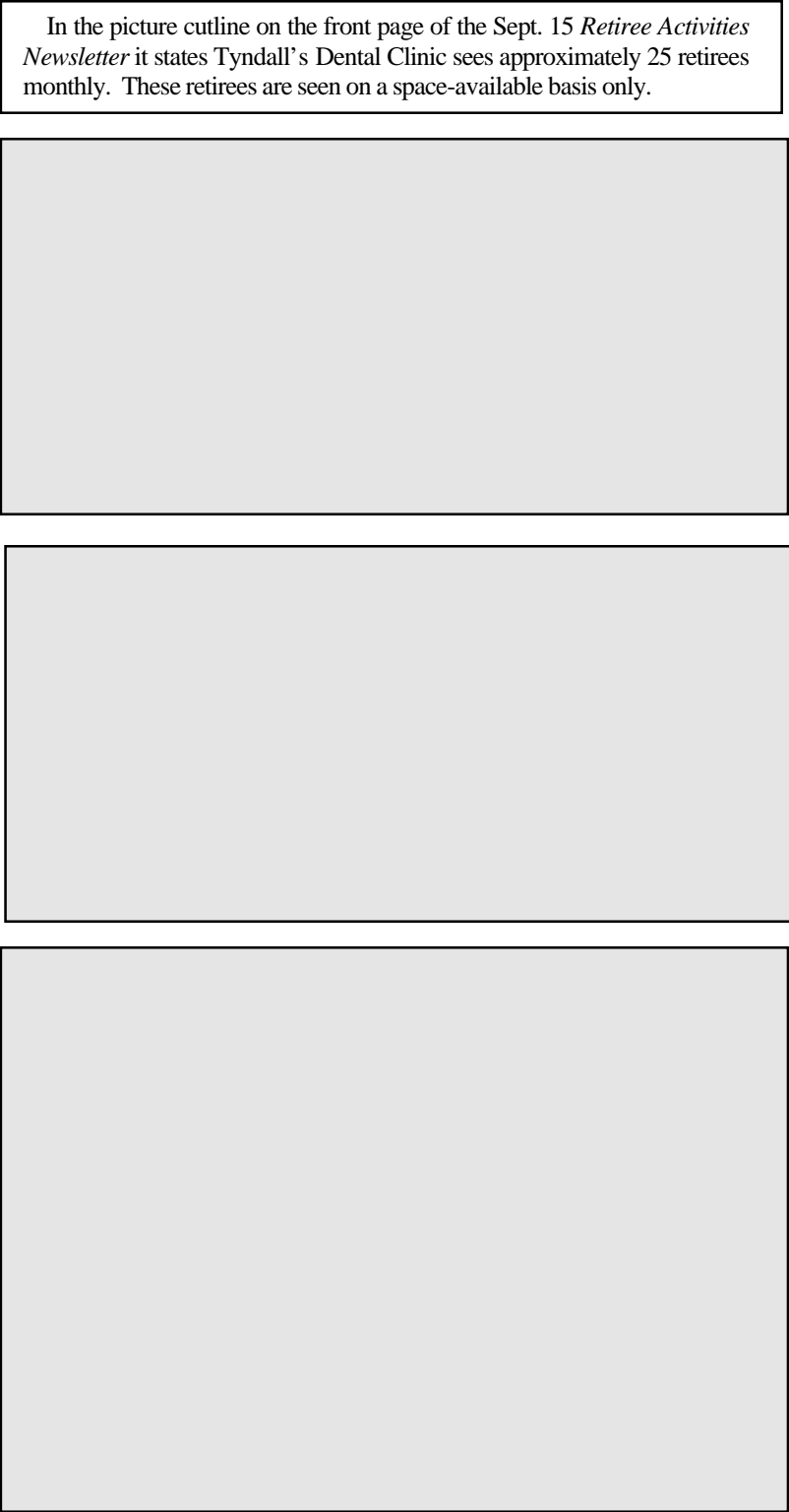
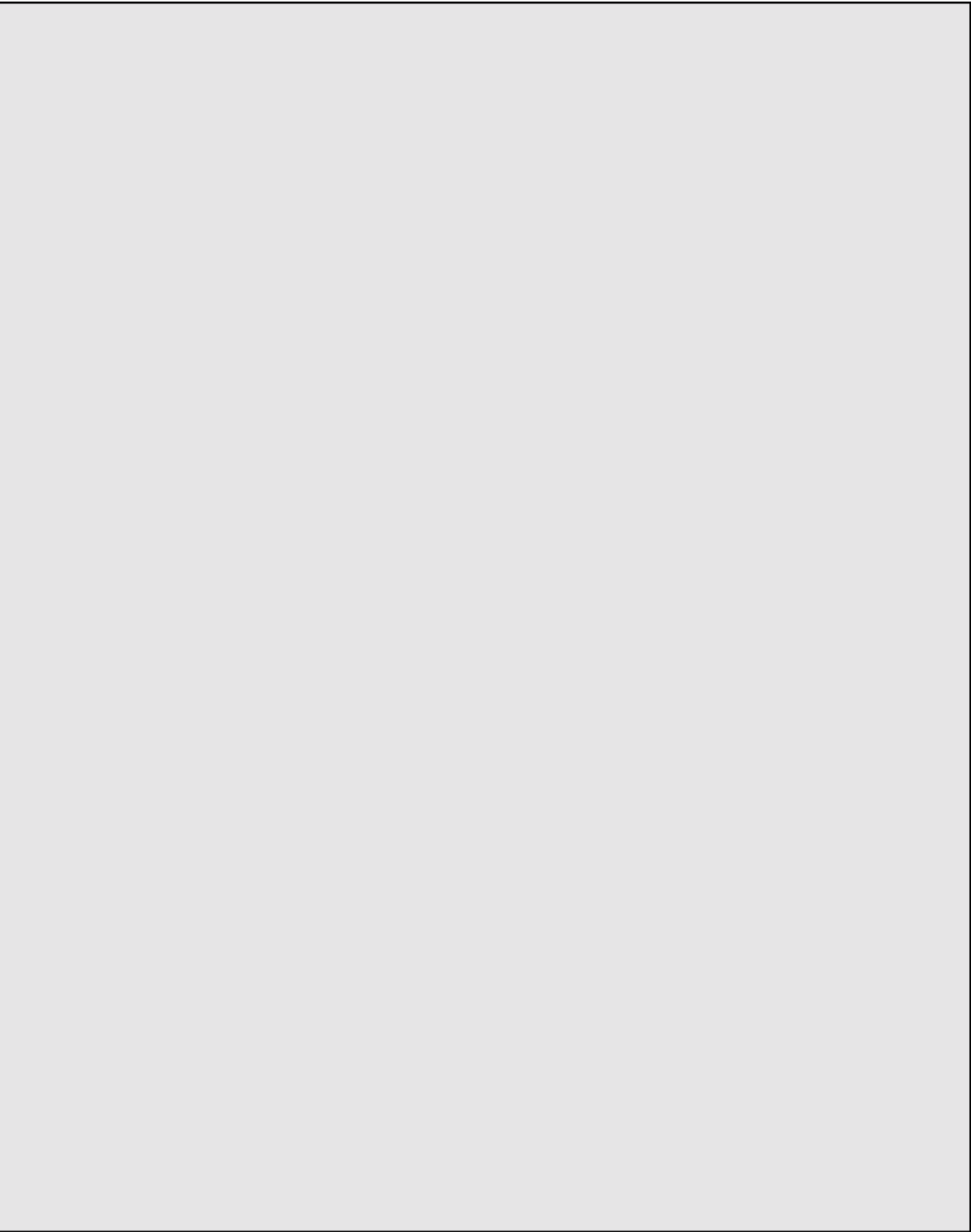
- Be sure of your target, what’s in front of it and what’s behind it.
- Establish your zone of fire and stick to it.
- Use the correct ammunition.
- Never put your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot. If the gun fails to fire when you pull the trigger, handle

the firearm carefully.

- Ensure the barrel is clear of obstructions before loading or shooting.
- When handling firearms, don’t drink alcohol while hunting. It impairs your judgment.
- Don’t modify or alter your gun. Have it serviced regularly by a professional gunsmith.
- Wear the proper safety equipment every time you hunt or shoot. Examples include hearing protection, orange hunting vests and eye protection.

Overall, hunting injuries account for only a small portion of the injuries and fatalities that occur each year. However, all hunting mishaps have the potential to cause serious injury, maim or kill. By simply following safe firearm-handling practice and all the safety rules, you will not only ensure a safe hunting season, but enjoy many more to come.

In the picture cutline on the front page of the Sept. 15 *Retiree Activities Newsletter* it states Tyndall’s Dental Clinic sees approximately 25 retirees monthly. These retirees are seen on a space-available basis only.



DOD assesses youth support

Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Drugs, alcohol, sex, gangs, puberty, peer pressure and school violence — it’s not easy being a teen. Add frequent moves, deployments and other factors unique to military life and you get what military family program specialists call “teens at risk.”

Almost 300,000 of the military’s 1.2 million children are between the ages of 12 and 18, according to Carolee Van Horn, Department of Defense’s Office of Children and Youth, Military Community and Family Policy child and youth program analyst in Washington, D.C.

A 1997 DOD survey of about 7,000 military teens showed they’d moved five times on average. “That’s got to be a stressor,” Van Horn said. “Being separated from your parents and friends, living in overseas communities — these are all above and beyond what civilian youth go through.”

The survey also found that half the surveyed military youth were interested in, or at least considering, joining the military. “When we do things for our youth, we’re really investing in the future, in our military workforce,” Van Horn said.

Family program specialists from throughout the military discussed teen issues at the DOD Family Readiness Conference in Phoenix, Ariz. in late August. Guest speaker Bill Kearney, Boys and Girls Clubs of America vice president of teen

services, said teens are in the middle of transitioning “from childhood to adulthood, from dependence to independence.”

Adults often see teens as selfish, moody, lethargic, unpredictable, angry, surly, independent, sullen, manipulative, stubborn, sneaky, scared and argumentative, Kearney said.

“That’s exactly what my daddy told me,” remarked Bull Barnes, Marine Corps’ community support officer at 29 Palms, Calif. No matter what era, he stressed, teens will be teens.

“Whenever I get fed up with my son’s music,” Barnes said, “I have to say, ‘Now wait a minute, Bull. The Beatles didn’t corrupt you. N’ Sync, the Backstreet Boys or whatever he’s listening to this week, is probably not going to ruin his life, so just chill. Everything’s going to be OK.”

In many ways, attendees agreed, time has not changed things too much for teens. But, they said, today, more than ever before, deployments separate military youth from their parents. The youth lack the presence of extended family, long-term friends and a sense of community.

Teens want their parents to talk with them, said Navy Cmdr. Dale Parker, Navy Personnel Command chaplain, Millington, Tenn. “We don’t have to understand everything about all these issues to establish a relationship with our kids,” he said. “They can teach us a lot if they trust us and believe we really do want to hear what they’re saying.

“When kids feel secure at home, a

lot of these issues will be taken care of if the parent is really loving the child.”

Professionals can help, the chaplain added, “but there’s no substitute for mom and dad.”

According to Military Family Resource Center research, the free time youths have correlates with their misbehavior. A 1997 civilian study found 60 percent of the youth surveyed were home alone two or more hours a day. Most of this unsupervised time occurs after school — most crimes committed by youth occur within four hours after the school day.

Recognizing youths’ growing need for support and services, DOD family-policy officials developed the Strategic Action Plan for Youth following a DOD conference in 1998. Teens attended that meeting, as did chaplains, medical specialists, family advocacy officials and other family program officials, Van Horn said.

“Anyone who’s dealt with youth these days knows they’re very vocal and very articulate. They made it clear that they didn’t want this to be another bureaucratic plan that just gets put on the shelf. They wanted us to move forward with this.”

The DOD then developed 10 objectives to:

- Provide comprehensive youth programs.
- Ensure command support and involvement.
- Promote youth involvement.
- Recognize and support family involvement.

- Develop standard policies.
- Expand partnerships and collaborations.
- Ensure adequate resources.
- Ensure qualified, enthusiastic adults work with youth.
- Promote health services for adolescent growth and development.
- Address the needs of at-risk youth.

DOD children and youth officials are now addressing the strategic plan’s tenth objective: address the needs of at-risk youth. “We want to be able to provide commanders with strategies to support the well-being of youth and eliminate behavior problems,” Van Horn said.

The DOD’s Office of Children and Youth has developed partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Justice Department, DOD schools and the services. An advisory panel has been formed and a community risk-assessment tool is being developed for use at overseas locations.

“Youth at these bases don’t have as many alternatives as those living in the states,” Van Horn said. “But we still think this community-assessment tool will be applicable to stateside installations as well.”

The DOD’s ultimate goals are to provide installation commanders with a snapshot of the state of youth in their community, she said, and to identify possible sources to help identify prevention programs.

The immediate goal is to train a joint-service, multidisciplinary team of DOD representatives to conduct the risk assessments, she told conferees. “We’re working with a

contractor to develop the tool, and we’re looking for feedback from you that can enhance the process or point out any of the indicators we should be looking for.”

The pilot assessment will be conducted on first-come, first-serve basis when requested by an installation commander. “We would like you to help spread the word that this tool will be available in the near future.”

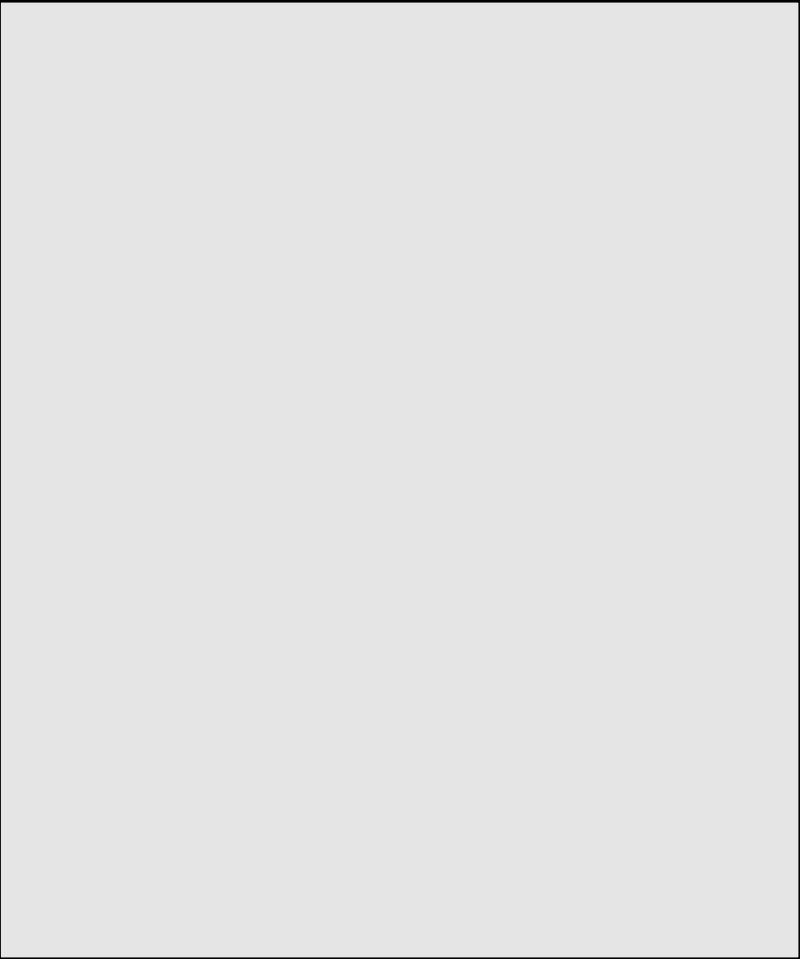
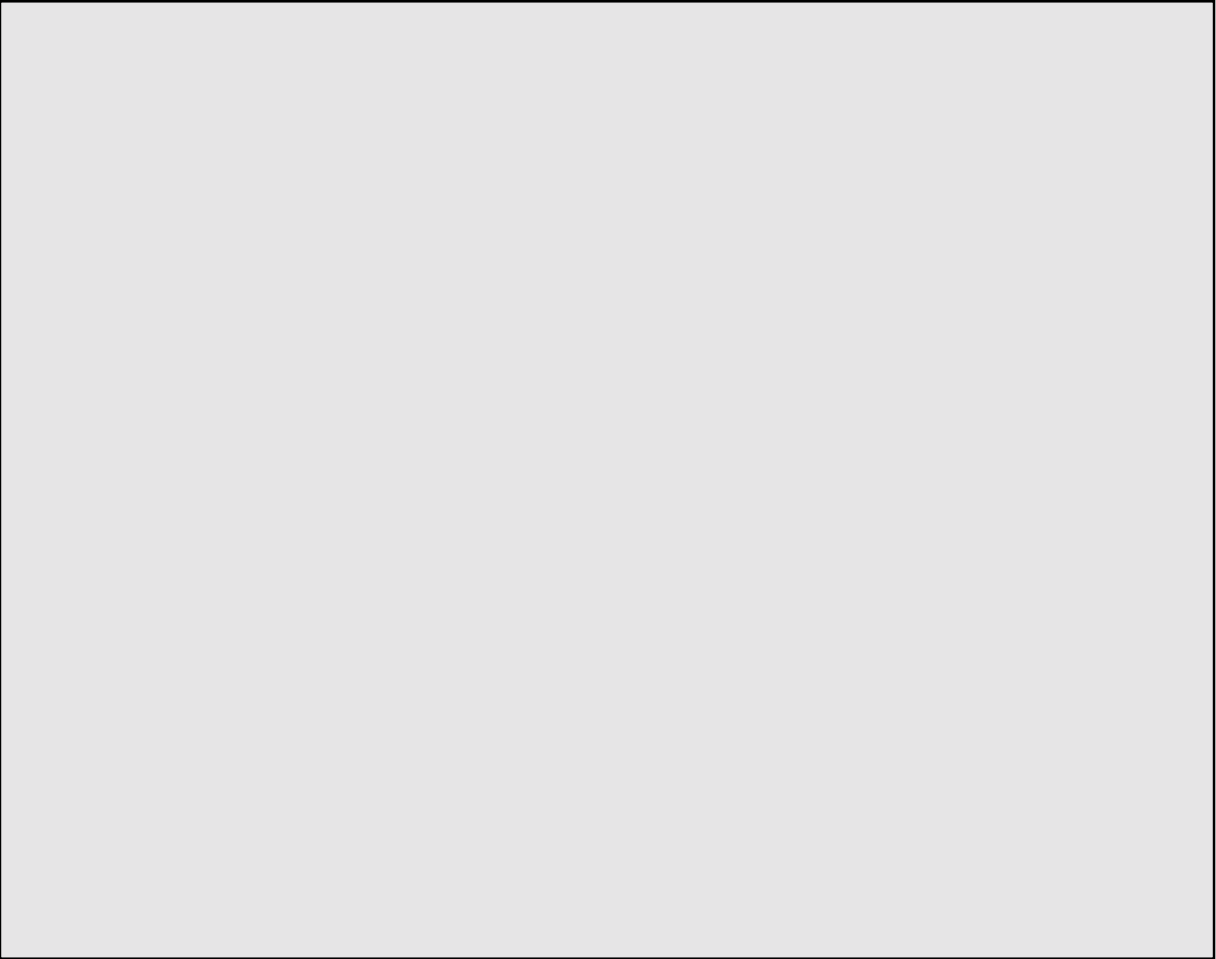
The plan is to leave the commanding officer with useful information — observations on what’s good, what needs work and strategies for future improvements, Van Horn said.

“Anonymity is really important. The only person who will see the final report is the commander at that installation.

“It’s not an inspection. The goal of the assessment is to help commanders and installation officials recognize the needs of their youth and provide possible strategies the installation may not even know are available,” she said.

Michael Berger, Children and Youth Programs head at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va., applauded the development of the assessment tool. He told the group that the Marine Corps recently conducted a week-long teen summit.

“We let them identify their issues,” he said. “Interestingly enough, some of the very issues that you are identifying, the teens themselves have already identified as needs. So our real challenge is to now respond to those needs, and the assessment tool will help all of us take that first step in addressing those needs.”



Intramural flag football standings

Large squadron

Team	Wins	Losses	GB
95 FS 1	2	0	—
TRS	2	0	—
COMM	1	0	.5
OSS	1	0	.5
CES	1	0	.5
SEADS	1	1	1
1 FS	1	1	1
325 MDG	0	1	1.5
95 FS 2	0	2	2
2 FS	0	2	2
MSS	0	2	2

Small squadron

Team	Wins	Losses	GB
83 FWS	2	0	—
MXS	1	0	.5
SFS	1	0	.5
Army	0	1	1.5
CONS	0	1	1.5
82 ATRS	0	2	2

Muscle Beach



The Tyndall Sports and Fitness Center will hold a bench press competition 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Oct. 28 at the sports and fitness center. The competition is open to all active-duty members, reservists, Department of Defense employees, government contractors and Bay County residents. There will be weight classes for men, women and youth. For more information, call the fitness center, 283-2631.

Gulf Defender offering free military classified ads


Courtesy of the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office

Submissions are being accepted for a new military classified advertisement section in the Gulf Defender. The free weekly classified section begins Oct 6. All Tyndall active-duty military members, dependents, Department of Defense civilians, contract personnel and retirees may make submissions.

Classified request forms must be picked up in person at the Tyndall Public Affairs office, Building 662, Suite 129. Specific policy guidelines are stated below.

- Only personal items less than \$20,000 and pet sales under \$50 will be placed in this section.
- Each submission will run for one week. People wishing to have their item run more than one week must resubmit a request form each week.
- Twenty (20) word limit.
- Only one advertisement per person per week may be submitted.
- All advertisements are on a first-come first-

- serve space-available basis.
- There is no guarantee of publication.
 - Deadline is 4 p.m. Thursday the week prior to publication. Example: Deadline would be Sept. 28 for publication on Oct. 6.
 - Forms may be either faxed or dropped off in person to the Tyndall Public Affairs office, Building 662, Suite 129.
 - No real estate or rental advertisements will be accepted.
 - No businesses, services or events will be accepted. Example: childcare, house cleaning, yard service, handyman.
 - The public affairs office is not responsible for sales or claims made by sellers regarding property condition or value.
 - All requests for publication must have a contact name and telephone number.
 - The public affairs officer reserves the right to review and edit or refuse any advertisement.
 - Personal or relationship-seeking advertisements will not be accepted.
- For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Sean E. Cobb, 283-2973.



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Hours of operation
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10 a.m.-10 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m.-midnight
Friday: 10 a.m.-2 a.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-2 a.m.
Sunday: 1-8 p.m.

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the Pelican Reef
TUNE
Enlisted Club.
Show up and
sing or listen
from 8 -11 p.m.
Everyone has
a voice during
karaoke night!